

## Notes for Parents

### Helping your child with reading

The most important thing you can do for any child learning to read is to read to them, talk to them, and encourage them to talk. Try to find at least 10 minutes a day. You can involve the whole family.

#### Saying letter sounds

Children learning to read need to clearly hear the sounds represented by different letters or letter groups.

- Say the *sound* of the letter, not the letter name, e.g. say /a/ as in **apple**, not /ay/.
- Keep the letter sounds short and sharp as you say them, so that the sounds are really clear.

#### Sound-talk and blend

- *Sound-talk* means to say the individual sounds that make up a word, e.g. **sat** becomes **s-a-t**.
- *Blend* means to put those sounds together to make the word, e.g. **s-a-t** becomes **sat**.

Some children find blending sounds to make words quite difficult at first – so give them plenty of practice.

#### Segmenting

- *Segmenting* means to break a word down into its sounds, e.g. the word **sat** is broken down into the sounds **s-a-t**.
- You can help your child practise this skill by saying some simple words and asking them to make the words using magnetic letters.

#### Tricky words

If your child gets stuck on a tricky word, encourage them to sound-talk and blend as much of the word as they can, then help them to read the full word. Children are taught how to read these words, and will meet them a lot in reading books, so they very soon learn to read them.

#### Find out more!

More information about how children learn to read, including audio files to help you say the different letter sounds, is available on our website: [www.oxfordprimary.co.uk/projectx](http://www.oxfordprimary.co.uk/projectx)

#### Remember!

As children learn to read, the process of reading and spelling words quickly becomes automatic. They should only need to *sound-talk and blend* or *segment* in order to work out new or difficult words.